Percentage of SCs in States

786. SHRI TALARI MANOHAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the percentage of Scheduled Castes in the different States and how many of them are still living below the poverty line, statewise; and

(b) what steps have been taken to improve their socio-economic conditions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Closure of Rayalseema Paper Mill at Kurnool in Andhra Pradesh

787. SHRI TALARI MANOHAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the closure of Rayalseema Paper Mills in Kurnool District of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether any compensation has been paid to the employees; and

(c) whether the Central Government propose to take steps to re-open the paper mill or its take over by the State Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI KAMAL MORARKA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) M/s. Rayalseema Paper Mills Ltd. is under he purview of Board for Industrial & Financial Reconstruction (BIFR). BIFR is considering proposals for change of management and revival of the unit.

Missile Project for Self Defence

788. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH THAKUR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal under the consideration for implementation of a missile project for self-defence;

(b) if so, what are the achievements made in this dirction;

(c) whether Government would consider its desirability to developing Inter-Continental Ballistic Missiles to strengthen the self-defence capability of the country; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI LALIT VIJAY SINGH): (a) The Government has already sanctioned 'Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme (IGMDP)' in July 1983 to undertake design and development of four missiles and one technology demonstrator.

(b) The details of IGMDP projects and progress made are as under—

(i) Prithvi—Surface to surface missile with a range capability upto 250 mw for tactical battlefield support application. It has been successfully flight tested flight tested two times.

(ii) Trishul—Short range, quick reaction, surface-to-air-missile. It has been successfully flight tested fourteen times.

(iii) Nag—Third generation anti-tank-missile. It has been successfully flight tested four times.

(iv) Akash—Medium range surface-to-air-missile. It has been successfully flight tested two times.

(v) Agni—A technology demonstrator for developing re-entry technology. It has been successfully flight tested once.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.